IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 37697-0080

Ápplicant(s)

Edward W. MERRILL et al.

Confirmation No.: 6478

Appl. No.:

10/696,709

Group Art Unit: 1711

Filing Date:

October 30, 2003

Examiner: Duc Troung

Title:

RADIATION AND MELT TREATED ULTRA HIGH MOLECULAR

WEIGHT POLYETHYLENE PROSTHETIC DEVICES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97

Commissioner for Patents

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United States Patent and Trademark Office

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Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

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Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08A is a listing of documents known to applicants in order to comply with applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97. A copy of each of the listed documents are being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing of a first Office action on the merits but before the mailing date of either (1) a final action

under §1.113; (2) a notice of allowance under §1.311; or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge required fee in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 08-1641.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. §609.

Respectfully submitted,

September 29, 2005

Date

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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.